REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 27-55 to the application, prior to examination of the above-identified application. All of claims 27-55 are method claims (directed to a method of manufacturing a semiconductor integrated circuit device). Of these newly added claims, claims 27, 32, 35, 38, 41, 43, 47, 49, 52 and 54 are independent claims.

In connection with claims 27, 32, 35, 43 and 47, and claims dependent thereon, note, for example, Embodiment 1, on pages 16-35 of Applicants' specification.

In connection with claims 38 and 41, and claims dependent thereon, note, for example claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,316, which issued from a prior application of the above-identified application, priority of which is being claimed herein under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In connection with claims 49, 52 and 54, and claims dependent thereon, note, for example, Embodiment 2 on pages 35-46 of Applicants' specification.

Entry of the presently submitted claims, and, subsequent thereto, examination of the above-identified application in due course, are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus,

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LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 501.36694CV4), and please credit

any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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